

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR
410 Willoughby Ave., Ste 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795
PHONE: (907) 465-5065
FAX: (907) 465-5070
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm>

September 29, 1998

Unified Watershed Assessment Federal Workgroup
499 South Capitol St. SW, Room 200
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Unified Watershed Assessment Federal Workgroup:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have completed the first phase of the process to determine Alaska's watershed priorities under the Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA). The process compliments the objectives outlined in ADEC's watershed management program, Watershed Partnerships in Alaska (WPA). Through the public process, many watersheds/waterbodies were nominated for various categories. Much information was provided, including local and traditional knowledge. However, because of time limitations, inadequate information, and the need to more fully consult with stakeholders, the identification of watersheds/waterbodies has been limited to Category I. Where we have inadequate information, watersheds are considered Category IV by definition. As time and resources allow, we intend to fully implement the process described in the WPA to further categorize the vast inventory of watersheds/waterbodies in Alaska.

It is very important to Alaska to have more information on Category IV watersheds/waterbodies. We request that up to 25% of Alaska's share of any UWA appropriation be made available to help fill this information void. This would allow us to move ahead with categorization and setting priorities for managing our water resources.

Alaska's UWA submittal includes Category I watersheds/waterbodies, presented in two priority ranking groups. The first priority ranking group includes nine watersheds/waterbodies (enclosure 1a) that are "most in need of restoration". All of the listings in this group, except the Kenai River main stem/lower Russian River and the Mendenhall Watershed, are Section 303(d) listed waterbodies or impaired waterbodies. However, the Mendenhall Watershed has several Section 303(d) listed waterbodies located within its boundary.

Also included in Category I are those waterbodies listed in enclosure 1b. This second list is made up entirely of Alaska's Section 303(d) listed impaired waterbodies, which are so listed because specific water quality standards are not being met. Waterbodies in this enclosure are ranked high, medium and low, but it is important to note that all of the waterbodies in this listing are of lower priority than those in enclosure 1a.

Enclosure 2a is the WPA brochure, and enclosure 2b is the WPA summary document. These watershed educational tools provided the watershed selection criteria and other information that was used in the UWA process.

Enclosure 3 is a summary of the process that ADEC and NRCS used over the past several months to produce this submittal.

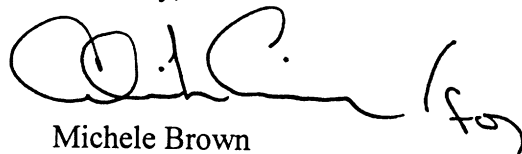
Enclosure 4 lists working group members who were involved at key inter-agency and stakeholder meetings. Participants at the July meetings were instrumental in preparing materials for the public comment period in August. Participants at the September meeting provided ADEC and NRCS with the watershed/waterbody priority recommendations from public comments and work group discussions.

Enclosure 5 provides copies of correspondence sent to participants, and press notices sent to newspapers statewide. Please note the July 7, 1998 correspondence explained a five-step process to help determine the watershed priority areas in Alaska. This letter also referred to the watershed selection and prioritization criteria. Because of time limitations, we were not able to accomplish everything outlined in that letter.

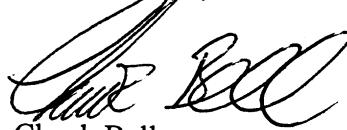
Enclosure 6 is a map of the locations of the nine priority Category I watershed areas. These areas will be the focus of immediate restoration efforts, if additional funds are made available for this purpose and can be used by the participating agencies. This cover letter, with associated enclosures, is the State of Alaska's final Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1999 UWA submittal.

If there are questions or comments regarding this submittal, please feel to contact either of us directly or contact Eric Decker (ADEC in Juneau at (907) 465-5305; Email: edecker@envircon.state.ak.us) or Jim Schmidt (NRCS in Anchorage at (907) 271-2424; Email: james.schmidt@ak.usda.gov).

Sincerely,



Michele Brown
Commissioner, ADEC



Chuck Bell
State Conservationist, NRCS

Enclosures

Enclosure 1(a)

Alaska's FFY 1999 Category I Watershed Areas or Waterbodies "Most in Need of Restoration" in Priority Order

Watershed Area or Waterbody	Hydrologic Unit
1. Kenai River (main stem) & Lower Russian River to the falls	19020302 19020302
Summary of rationale for listing: These two waterbody segments are located on the Kenai Peninsula in Southcentral Alaska. There is state and federal agency documentation that riparian habitat damage has occurred due to high recreational use along these waterbody segments. State and Federal agency staff assigned to the Kenai River Center are working with local groups to address this and other issues.	
2. Ward Cove	19010102
Summary of rationale for listing: Ward Cove is located in Southeast Alaska near Ketchikan. Ward Cove is a Section 303d listed waterbody that is water quality limited for dissolved oxygen, sediment and toxicity.	
3. Silver Bay	19010203
Summary of rationale for listing: Silver Bay is located in Southeast Alaska near Sitka. Silver Bay is a Section 303d listed waterbody that is water quality-limited for toxicity, residues and dissolved oxygen.	
4. King Salmon Creek	19030203
Red Fox Creek	19030204
Eskimo Creek	19030204
Summary of rationale for listing: These three waterbodies are located adjacent to the community of King Salmon in the Kuskokwim/Aleutians region. All three waterbodies are on the Section 303d list for petroleum hydrocarbons and toxicity.	
5. Ship Creek-Glenn Hwy Bridge down to mouth	19020401
Chester Creek	19020401
Campbell Creek	19020401
Summary of rationale for listing: These three waterbodies are located within the Municipality of Anchorage and are on the Section 303d list. Ship Creek (from the Glenn Highway bridge downstream to the mouth) is water quality-limited for fecal coliform and petroleum products. Chester and Campbell Creeks are water quality-limited for fecal coliform.	
6. Mendenhall Watershed	19010301
Jordan Creek	19010301
Duck Creek	19010301
Pederson Hill Creek	19010301
Summary of rationale for listing: The Mendenhall Watershed is located in Southeast Alaska near Juneau. This watershed is subject to urban development from the City and Borough of Juneau. Jordan, Duck and Pederson Hill Creeks are Section 303d listed waterbodies. A Mendenhall Watershed Working Group was formed to develop a watershed management plan.	
7. Chena River	19040506
Noyes Slough	19040506
Chena Slough	19040506
Summary of rationale for listing: These are Section 303d listed waterbodies that are subject to urban development within the City of Fairbanks. There is local and agency interest to continue development of a Chena River management plan.	
8. King Cove	19030101
Summary of rationale for listing: This waterbody is located near the western tip of the Alaska peninsula in the Kuskokwim/Aleutians region. King Cove is on the Section 303d list for seafood residue.	
9. Thorne Bay	19010103
Summary of rationale for listing: Thorne Bay is located in Southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales Island adjacent to the community of Thorne Bay. Thorne Bay is a Section 303d listed waterbody and is water quality-limited for debris and hydrogen sulfide.	

Enclosure 1(b)

ALASKA'S FFY 1999 "GENERAL PRIORITY" CATEGORY I SECTION 303(d) <i>WATERBODIES</i> - (HIGH PRIORITY)					
ARCTIC - HIGH	INTERIOR - HIGH	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - HIGH	NORTHWEST - HIGH	SOUTHCENTRAL-KODIAK - HIGH	SOUTHEAST - HIGH
None Identified	None Identified	Cold Bay 19030101 Dutch Harbor 19030401 Popof Strait 19030101	None Identified	Eagle River Flats 19020302	Hamilton Bay 19010202 Nakwasina River 19010203 Swan Lake 19010203 Granite Creek 19010203
ALASKA'S FFY 1999 "GENERAL PRIORITY" CATEGORY I SECTION 303(d) <i>WATERBODIES</i> - (MEDIUM PRIORITY)					
ARCTIC - MED	INTERIOR - MED	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - MED	NORTHWEST - MED	SOUTHCENTRAL - MED	SOUTHEAST - MED
None Identified	Caribou Creek 19040510 Crooked Creek Drainage 19040402 Goldstream Creek 19040509 Slate Creek 19040501	None Identified	None Identified	Hood/Spennard Lake 19020401 Red Lake/Anton Rd Ponds 19030102 University Lake 19020401 Westchester Lagoon 19020401 Buskin Beach Pond 19020701 Little Survival Creek 19020401 Little Rabbit Creek 19020401	Cube Cove 19010204 Point McCartney 19010202 Rowan Bay 19010202 Schulze Cove 19010203 Twelvemile Arm 19010103 Wrinklneck Creek 19010203
ALASKA'S FFY 1999 "GENERAL PRIORITY" CATEGORY I WATERSHED SECTION 303(d) <i>WATERBODIES</i> - (LOW PRIORITY)					
ARCTIC - LOW	INTERIOR - LOW	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - LOW	NORTHWEST - LOW	SOUTHCENTRAL/KODIAK - LOW	SOUTHEAST - LOW
None Identified	Cabin Creek 19040501 Harding Lake 19040505	Illiuliuk Bay/Harbor 19030102 Udagak Bay 19030102	None Identified	Campbell Lake 19020401 Cheney Lake 19020401 Fish Creek 19020401 Furrow Creek 19020401 Lake Lucille 19020505 Little Campbell Creek 19020401	Klag Bay 19010203 Skagway Harbor 19010303

Enclosure 3

Summary of Alaska's 1998 Unified Watershed Assessment Process

1. May 27th 1998 "Go-Ahead" policy meeting attended by management representatives from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Alaska Municipal League and Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
2. June – meetings with NRCS, ADEC, EPA and working group members of the *Watershed Partnerships in Alaska* to determine steps and process to meet the UWA deadline.
3. July 7th joint ADEC and NRCS letter that explained specific steps to be taken to meet UWA deadline date of October 1, 1998
4. July 21 & 27 inter-agency and stakeholder meetings that nominated watersheds and prepared materials for Alaska's formal August 3 – September 1 UWA public comment period.
5. August 3 - September 1 Formal Public Notice Comment Period
 - A. Packet Mail-out to a mailing list of 700+ (more than 400 were Alaska tribal entities).
 - B. Newspaper Ads in statewide and regional newspapers regarding availability of the August 3rd packet.
6. September 14 - Summary of Public and Agency Comments/Draft recommendations faxed to "Inter-Agency and Stakeholder" Working Group Members
7. September 17th Inter-agency and Stakeholder Working Group Meeting
 - Recommendations on FFY 1999 Category I "immediate attention" watersheds
 - Recommendations on FFY 1999 Category 1 "general priority" watersheds
8. Week of September 21
 - NRCS/DEC reviews working group recommendations/ makes final decisions
 - Prepare Final UWA Submittal
9. Mail Alaska's UWA submittal report by October 1 to:
 - UWA Federal Working Group
10. Mail Alaska's UWA submittal report by October 16 to:
 - Participants at stakeholder meetings and those submitted comments during August public comment period

**Public Notice Regarding
a Request for Public Comment
on a Nomination List of Alaska Watersheds
in Response to the Clean Water Action Plan
and the
Watershed Partnerships in Alaska Effort**

In response to the Clean Water Action Plan and the Watershed Partnership effort in Alaska, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) request public comment on the list of nominated watersheds needing restoration or protection to safeguard water quality and meet other natural resource goals. The public comment period is August 3 through September 1, 1998.

A packet of nominated watersheds and background information can be requested from either of the following addresses:

ADEC

Attention: Eric Decker
410 Willoughby Avenue
Suite 400

Juneau, AK 99801-1795

(907) 465-5305

FAX: (907) 465-5274

Email:

edecker@envircon.state.ak.us

NRCS

Attention: Jim Schmidt
949 E. 36th Avenue
Suite 400

Anchorage, AK 99508-4362

(907) 271-2424

FAX: (907) 271-3951

Email:

james.schmidt@ak.usda.gov

Public comments must be received by 5:00 PM Tuesday, September 1, 1998 at either the ADEC or NRCS offices listed above.

The public is encouraged to request the nominated watersheds packet via phone, FAX, or Email to minimize time delays.

Selected watersheds identified through public comment and other information will be summarized in a final report. This report will be submitted to NRCS, National Headquarters, Washington, D.C. The respondents to this notice will receive a copy of the final report in October 1998. It is anticipated the report will become an important starting point to continue Alaska's regional watershed management effort.

Enclosure 4 - List of Working Group Participants at the July 21, July 27 and September 17 inter-agency and stakeholder meetings (see attached lists).

DAVE BRANCHET

USFS - CHUGACH NF

3301 C ST, Suite 300
ANCH, AK 99503

271-2538

271-3992 (FAX)

Clean Water Action Plan Meeting

July 21, 1998

Name	Agency	Address	Phone/Fax
Cindy Pilot	LTC	Bx 244 Galena, AK 99741	456-1711
Dennis Tol	BLM	222 W 7th #13	271-3348 P300 271-5479 FAX 271-2122 BLM.gov
KEVIN VANHARTEN	TANANA CHIEFS CONF.	122 1st AVE, Suite 600	452-8251 (LP) 451-8250 (LP)
JEFF HOCK	ADEC	410 Willoughby Ave Suite 105 TANANA, AK 99801	465-5185 465-5274 (FAX)
ERIC DECKER	"	"	"
William J. Viera	AK Intertribal Council	431 W 7th Street #201	563-9221/562-9239
Pandy Wavemaker	Gateway Technologies	POB 32234 Juneau, 99803	789-6855 789-6856 - FAX
Jim Schmidt	NRCS	Anchorage	271-2424
Robin Reich	Chugachmiut	4201 Tudor Centre	562-4155
Rob Rosenfeld	Yukon River Intertribal	Dr. Anch 99508 (P.O. 244, Galena AK)	656-711
Johnny Duplant	COE	P.O. Box 878 Anch, 99508	753-2829
Ernie Brannon	USDA-RD	800 W. Evergreen Palmer, AK	245-2176
STEPHEN WRIGHT	DEC	P.O. Box 11003 Juneau.	465-3529
GARY PROKOSCH	DNR/Water	3601 "C" St. Suite 822 Anch. 99503	269-8645
ART WEINER	DNR/NRCSB	" Suite 980 421 W 1st ANC. #200	269-8424 276-3133
PAUL JACKSON	Nature Conservancy	ADEC	269-7518
SIMON MANSON	ADEC	4270 University Dr 99508	786-7100 7150
Gordon Nelson	USGS	2525 Gambell St Anch 99503	257-2690 2533 fax
JUDY GOTTLIEB	NPS	1011 E. Tudor Rd. ANCHORAGE, AK 99503	786-3483 786-3350 FAX 753-2897 753-2625 FAX
PHILIP JOHNSON	USFWS	PO Box 898 Anchorage AK 99506	753-2897 753-2625 FAX
Brenda Kerr	US Army Corps of Engineers	800 W. Evergreen Palmer	271-2424
Jimmy LaVoie	FSA	"	"

JULY 21, 1998 CWAP MEETING

S. Chad Coweise

USDA F.S.
SPPF

3301 C St.
Suite 522

271/2550
2897 (F)

CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN

State Technical Committee Meeting

July 27, 1998

Name/Agency	Address	Phone/FAX
1. Steve Touchett/DNR-AK		745-7200
2. Mike Carlson FSA	Box 953 Delta, AK 99548	907-4819
3. KAREN OLSON FSA	800 W. EVERGREEN PALMER, AK	745-7982
4. Carl Bonash COE	Box 898, Anchorage AK	753-5602
5. ART WEINER ANRCDB	3601 CST. Anch. 99503	269-8424 8902
6. Chad Converse ^{USDA} Forest Service	3301 C St. Anch. 99503	274-2550 / 2897
7. Omar Stratman	P.O. Box 2376 Kodiak AK 99561	486-5578
8. Greg Kellogg	222 W. 7th Ave #9 Anchorage 99513	271-6328
9. Jim Schmidt	ORCS - Anchorage	
10. William Ashton	EcoSynergy 200 W 34th Ave #1120 Anchorage 99503	563-0889
11. Chuck Bell	909 E. 36th Ave Suite 470 Anchorage AK 99508	271-2424
12. John Copeland	NRCS Anchorage S.O.	
13. DAVID SWANSON	NRCS ANCHORAGE, S.O.	
14. JEFF MOCK	ADEC 210 WILLOUGHBY, Suite 105 TUNEAU AK 99801	965-5185 (PH) 965-5274 (FAX)
15. CALVIN MILLER	NRCS Anchorage S.O.	
16. DAVID ROGERS ANRCDBOOK JUNEAU		581-1107-581-109
17. Eric Decker	ADEC - TUNEAU	465-5305/5274
18. PHILIP JOHNSON	U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE 1011 E. TUPAC ROAD ANCHORAGE, AK 99503	(907) 785-3483 / 785-3350
19. BRIAN CREWSON	MOA - ANCH 3000 Arctic Blvd 99503	907-786-5511
20. Robert Palmer	MOA / DPW	907-348-8115
21. Ken Freeman	RDC, 121 W. Fireweed Lane Anch. AK 99503	276-0700 (P) 271-3921 (R)

22. Jordan Street, CSFUs 605 W 4th Avenue Anchorage 271-2776
22. PAUL JACKSON - Nature Conservancy - Anch.

**Sign-In Sheet for the
Clean Water Action Plan and Watershed Partnerships In Alaska
September 17, 1998 Meeting**

Name	Organization	Phone#	FAX#
1. EUGEN MARCOLECU	AGRAE Early Implementation	276-6480	258-4128
2. Kotelmaier, Kara	AUCRIST	272-6700	272-6707
3. Rosenfeld, Rob	Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council	235-7528	235- 7528
4. Jerry Birch	Alaska Mining Council	347-4624	347-4645
5. GARY Prokosh	DWR / DMUW	369-8645	562 1394
6. JULES TILSTON	II	269 8625	563-1853
7. BRIAN CREWSON	AWWU	788-5511	562-3421
8. SIMON MAWSON	ADEC	269-7518	269-7600
9. BILL VIERA	AI-TL	563-9334	563-9337
10. ART WEINER	NRCDB	269-8424	269-8902
11. Steve Borell	Alaska Mining	563-9229	563-9225
12. Tony Brook	USFS	586-7863	586-7922
13. Jim LAVOIE	FSA	745-7982	745-7984
14. Tony DeGange	FLWS	786-3492	786-3350
15. Stephanie	Aleutian Sfd	(907)	
16. Madsen	Processors	581-2212	581-1306
17. Malcolm Ford	AK Coop. Ext	279-6575	279 2139
18. Robin Reich	Chugachmiut	562-4155	563-2891
19. Ken Freeman	RDC	276 0700	276 3887
20. Todd Owens	RDC	u	u

Clean Water Action Plan September 17, 1998 Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization	Phone#	FAX#
21. Marilyn Crockett	AOGA	272-1481	279-8114
22. Charlotte MacCay	Chinook Alaska	272-2117	272-2134
23. Greg Kellogg	EPA	271-6528	271-6380
24. DOVID ROBERTS	DNR (B BOND)	586-1107	586-1097
25. Dave Blanche	USFS	271-2538	271-3992
26. Dick Mylius	DNR	269-8532	269-8915
27. Nancy Deschu	National Park Service	257-2624	257-244
28. Dennis Tol	BLM	271-3348	271-5479
29. BILL HUMPHRIES	OGDEN	694-6337	694-6303
30. Karl Williams	Village of Eureka	424-7738	424-7739
31. STEVE WRIBNER	DEC	465-3529	465-3075
32. Mark Stahl		357-0428	357-0430
33. MIKE CONWAY	ADEC	465-5298	465-5274
34. Jim Schmidt	NRCS	271-2424	271-3951
35. Nolan Heath	BLM	271-5477	271-5479
36. Eric Decker	DEC	465-525	465-5274
37. Jeff Hock	DEC	465-5185	465-5274
38.			
39.			
40.			

Enclosure 5 - Copies of key correspondence sent to Unified Watershed Assessment and *Watershed Partnerships in Alaska* participants (see attached correspondence).

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air and Water Quality
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795

Director's Office: (907) 465-5300
Fax: (907) 465-5274
TTY: (907) 465-5010

June 3, 1998

Dear Watershed Partnership Members:

Attached is a summary of the April 28, 1998 meeting held in Anchorage to formulate a process for regional team development. As you may recall, this follow-up meeting was proposed at the April 2, 1998 Watershed Partnerships meeting. I also want to inform you of recent developments relating to implementation of the President's Clean Water Action Plan (Plan). The Plan was released in February 1998 and is currently on a fast track with many participating agencies and organizations. The Plan has similar elements and objectives to our Watershed Partnership effort in Alaska. Also attached is a summary of the Plan and one action item element that relates to our statewide watershed effort; *Draft Summary - Framework for Unified Watershed Assessment, Restoration Priorities, and Restoration Action Strategies*. My understanding is that all elements of the Plan will be finalized and made available to the public later this month.

The April 28th follow-up meeting turned out to be a lively discussion with twelve participants on how to proceed with development of the regional teams. Key items discussed included:

- The workgroup identified organizations that have "regional influence" for each of Alaska's six major hydrologic regions.
- The workgroup requested the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) take the lead in preparing a presentation that could be given to any organization that had "regional influence." The purpose of the presentation would be to explain Alaska's Watershed Partnership effort and to obtain advice on how to further proceed with regional team development.
- The workgroup requested the ADEC presentation be made to the workgroup for the purpose of fine-tuning the presentation by July 15, 1998.

On May 27th, the Commissioners of ADEC and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), and representatives from other agencies (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Alaska Municipal League and Soil and Water Conservation Districts), were briefed on the Plan and its relation to Alaska. The emphasis of the briefing was on the proposed Plan's approach to develop unified watershed assessments and restoration priorities.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR
410 Willoughby Ave., Ste 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795
PHONE: (907) 465-5065
FAX: (907) 465-5070
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm>

July 7, 1998

Dear State Technical Committee and Watershed Partners:

In February 1998 the *Clean Water Action Plan* (Plan) was released by President Clinton and Vice-President Gore to supplement the Clean Water Act to protect and restore the Nation's rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, and coastal waters. Attached is a summary of the Plan. The Plan requests that each state prioritize its watersheds this summer in anticipation - subject to Congressional approval - of an additional \$568 million in appropriations in FY '99 and a total of \$2.3 billion in additional funds to the states over the next five years. The Plan requests that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and state environmental agencies - in Alaska it would be the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) - convene the watershed prioritization process.

The NRCS and ADEC recognize that the Plan has objectives similar to Alaska's ongoing process to implement the watershed approach in the state - the *Watershed Partnerships in Alaska* (WPA) effort. In fact an ad hoc working group of the WPA met in late April 1998 to decide how to develop regional teams in Alaska that will be the springboard for developing regional priorities in each of the state's six major hydrologic regions. This group agreed that ADEC should develop a presentation that could be given to "regional leader groups" for the purpose of obtaining input on how to proceed with regional team formation and the subsequent watershed prioritization task in each of the regions. The Plan's deadlines for developing watershed priorities this Summer gives us the opportunity to meet the intent of the Plan and "jumpstart" the watershed prioritization task efforts of the WPA.

The following is proposed to address the intent of the Plan and further implement the WPA:

1. ADEC will convene a working group by July 20 to prioritize the 1998 Section 303(d) list. This list will be included in the Category I watershed list (watersheds in need of *restoration*). The working group will also identify at least one (maximum of three) watersheds in need of *protection* (known as Category II watersheds) in each of Alaska's six hydrologic regions. Of the Category II watersheds selected from all of the six hydrologic regions - the group will prioritize the top four in the state. Prioritization criteria for Category I watersheds will be those found on page 5 in the 1996 document *Alaska's 1996 Water Quality Assessment Report*. Selection and prioritization criteria for Category II watersheds will be those found on pages five and six in the 1997 document *Watershed Partnerships in Alaska*. (Note: the working group will be composed of representatives of: the WPA ad hoc working group, federal land management agencies, State Technical Committee, ADEC, NRCS, Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council).

*Clean Water Initiative:
Restoring and Protecting America's Waters*

SUMMARY

6/9/98

**Framework for Unified Watershed Assessment, Restoration
Priorities, and Restoration Action Strategies**

This is a Summary of the Final Framework for Unified Watershed Assessments, Restoration Priorities, and Restoration Action Strategies, and provides an overview of the major elements and products of the unified watershed assessment, restoration priorities, and restoration action strategies. The Framework provides more information on conducting unified watershed assessments, restoration priorities, and restoration action strategies and includes appendices which provide information on examples of existing assessment processes, a map of 8-digit hydrologic cataloging units, and a list of some existing assessment data and tools. The Framework is available on the Internet at <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/cleanwater/> or <http://www.epa.gov/cleanwater>.

The *Clean Water Action Plan*, released in February 1998, presents a broad vision of watershed protection in which protections for America's coastal and estuarine waters, surface freshwater, wetlands, groundwater, and natural resources are integrated with traditional clean water and human health objectives that includes a new, cooperative approach to restoring and protecting water quality. State, federal, tribal, and local governments are asked to work with stakeholders and interested citizens to: (1) identify watersheds with the most critical water quality problems, and (2) work together to focus resources and implement effective strategies to solve these problems. This Framework is intended to help focus thoughts and action for *unified watershed assessments, restoration priorities, and restoration action strategies*.

At the state/tribal level, the assessments and the priorities for restoration guide the development of restoration strategies in 1999 and steer the use of most new resources made available through the President's FY 1999 Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Budget Initiative to accelerate watershed restoration in a coordinated manner to achieve maximum effect. Existing federal authorities and programs also can make contributions to improving watershed health. By setting watershed restoration priorities, states and tribes can help guide federal assistance to achieve their local goals. At the national level, the information will be used to demonstrate that the Nation has a coordinated strategy and can effectively use increased new resources made available through the President's FY 1999 Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Budget Initiative to accomplish local and state clean

- nonattainment of national clean water goals (including exceedances of state or tribal water quality standards, or impaired drinking water sources, etc.);
- nonattainment of natural resource goals related to the aquatic systems, including goals related to habitat, ecosystem health, and living resources;
- other appropriate measures and indicators of degraded aquatic system conditions (e.g., wetland condition and current and historical loss rates, percent impervious surface, and other measures of aquatic habitat); and
- decline in the condition of living and natural resources that are part of the aquatic system in the watershed (e.g., decline in the populations of rare and endangered aquatic species, decline in healthy populations of fish and shellfish, etc.)

The *Clean Water Action Plan* targets most new resources made available through the President's FY 1999 Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Budget Initiative toward restoring these Category I watersheds.

Category II Watersheds Meeting Goals, Including Those Needing Action to Sustain Water Quality. These watersheds meet clean water and other natural resource goals and standards and support healthy aquatic systems. All such watersheds need the continuing implementation of base clean water and natural resource programs to maintain water quality and conserve natural resources.

Category III Watersheds with Pristine or Sensitive Aquatic System Conditions on Lands Administered by Federal, State, and Tribal Governments. States and tribes work cooperatively with federal land managers to identify watersheds with exceptionally pristine water quality, drinking water sources, or other sensitive aquatic system conditions, which are located on lands administered by federal, state, or tribal governments.

Category IV Watersheds With Insufficient Data to Make an Assessment. These watersheds lack data, critical data elements, or the data density needed to make a reasonable assessment.

Existing Efforts

Unified watershed assessments primarily use existing and appropriate assessment information and tools. There are many assessment activities currently underway by state, tribal, federal, and local agencies as well as other organizations. For example, states have recently established lists of impaired waters requiring total maximum daily loads under the Clean Water Act, and state technical committees have recently used a locally-led conservation process to identify priority areas for agricultural conservation programs. These waters and priority watersheds can be overlaid on maps

the unified watershed assessments.

The Action (p. 78, *Clean Water Action Plan*)

"States and tribes working with appropriate agencies, organizations, and the public define watershed restoration priorities, with special attention to watersheds most in need of restoration and protection through the year 2000. This schedule must be coordinated with section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and provide an opportunity to bundle Total Maximum Daily Loads on a watershed scale."

Roles

The *Clean Water Action Plan* asks states/tribes to take the lead and involve all appropriate agencies, organizations, the public, and other stakeholders. Appropriate partners in this process include watershed organizations; conservation district/land conservation departments; agencies for water quality, drinking and ground water protection, coastal management, agriculture, conservation, fish and wildlife, forestry, rangeland, natural resources, parks, recreation, mining, geology, and transportation, among others. Federal land managers are actively involved in this process for lands that they administer. The *Action Plan* envisions a collaborative approach which includes outreach to underserved communities.

Existing Efforts

Identifying watershed restoration priorities depends primarily on existing tools, data, and processes. The specific process for identifying priorities is determined at the state/tribal level, according to the process convened in each state. Many existing priority-setting mechanisms may help states/tribes to establish priorities, including the state technical committees established by USDA, state and tribal processes for establishing priority rankings of impaired waterbodies under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, source water protection priorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and national estuary program priorities, among others.

The *Clean Water Action Plan* recognizes that processes differ, but asks that states include the following elements in their priority setting process: criteria for defining watersheds in most need of restoration; a long term action schedule for developing response plans and focusing on 1999-2000; a process for involving diverse federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, conservation district/land conservation departments, non-governmental and private voluntary organizations, the public, and others in priority setting; and consideration of existing restoration priorities.

3. DEVELOPING RESTORATION STRATEGIES

The Action (p. 80, *Clean Water Action Plan*)

elements:

- an identification of specific Category I watersheds most in need of restoration, beginning in 1999-2000;
- a preliminary long-term schedule for attention to all remaining Category I watersheds; and
- a two- or three-page description of the processes, participants, rationale, and information used to make priority decisions.

In addition, states or tribes are encouraged to identify priorities for Category II, III and IV watersheds, to help focus protection and monitoring programs as well as base funding resources.

The August 1, 1998 draft and October 1, 1998 final list of restoration priorities need to be distributed to agencies and stakeholders within the state or tribal jurisdiction, with an additional copy to: The Unified Watershed Assessment Working Group, (4503F), Washington, DC 20460.

Clean Water Initiative Home

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<http://www.epa.gov/cleanwater/uwafinal/sum.html>
Revised June 11, 1998

DRAFT - CATEGORY I WATERSHEDS * = On Alaska's 1998 Section 303(d) List CPA = Conservation Priority Area					
ARCTIC - HIGH None Identified	INTERIOR - HIGH * Chena River Koyukuk River Nowitna River Innoko NWR	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - HIGH * Cold Bay * Dutch Harbor * Eskimo Creek * King Cove * King Salmon Creek McCally Creek * Popof Strait * Red Fox Creek	NORTHWEST - HIGH None Identified	SOUTHCENTRAL-KODIAK - HIGH Cottonwood Creek * Eagle River Flats Eyak Lake Gulkana River Kenai River & Tributaries Kodiak Urban Lakes Wasilla Lake Russian River & Tributaries * Ship Creek Big Lake Nancy Lake * Campbell Creek * Chester Creek Potter Marsh Watershed * Little Rabbit Creek * Little Survival Creek	SOUTHEAST - HIGH * Hamilton Bay * Nakwasina River & Sound * Silver Bay * Thorne Bay * Ward Cove * Swan Lake * Granite Creek Indian River (Tenakee) Katlai River Stargavan Creek Mendenhall Valley Watershed * Duck Creek * Pederson Hill Creek * Jordan Creek * Auke Lake
DRAFT - CATEGORY I WATERSHEDS * = On Alaska's 1998 Section 303(d) List CPA = Conservation Priority Area					
ARCTIC - MEDIUM None Identified	INTERIOR - MEDIUM * Caribou Creek * Chena Slough * Crooked Creek Drainage * Goldstream Creek Interior Lowlands - Fairbanks CPA * Noyes Slough * Slate Creek Birch Creek Nome Creek	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - MEDIUM Sweeper Creek/Bay Salmon River	NORTHWEST - MEDIUM Nome Creek	SOUTHCENTRAL - MEDIUM Resurrection Creek * Hgod/Spenard Lake Point MacKenzie CPA * Red Lake/Anton Rd Ponds * University Lake * Westchester Lagoon	SOUTHEAST - MEDIUM * Cube Cove South Katlian River Adams Creek * Point McCartney * Rowan Bay * Schulze Cove * Twelvemile Arm * Wrinklneck Creek Duffield Creek Fish Creek Iris Creek Noxon Creek Rodman Creek Shelikof Creek Sitkoh Creek Sitkoh River Red Bay N. Whitewater Bay Creek
DRAFT - CATEGORY I WATERSHEDS * = On Alaska's 1998 Section 303(d) List CPA = Conservation Priority Area					
ARCTIC - LOW None Identified	INTERIOR - LOW * Cabin Creek * Harding Lake	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - LOW * Illiuliuk Bay/Harbor * Udagak Bay	NORTHWEST - LOW Nome River Drainage Salmon River Snake River Solomon River	SOUTHCENTRAL/KODIAK - LOW Anderson Creek * Campbell Lake * Cheney Lake * Fish Creek * Furrow Creek * Lake Lucille * Little Campbell Creek Fourth of July Creek Salmon Creek	SOUTHEAST - LOW * Klag Bay * Skagway Harbor Lemon Creek Vanderbilt Creek

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

410 Willoughby Ave., Ste 105

Juneau, AK 99801-1795

PHONE: (907) 465-5065

FAX: (907) 465-5070

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/home.htm>

August 3, 1998

Dear Alaskan:

In accordance with the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) and the Watershed Partnerships in Alaska (WPA) effort, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) request your help. We need to determine what watersheds in Alaska require either restoration (Category I) or protection (Category II). There are also categories for pristine watersheds (Category III) and watersheds with insufficient data (Category IV), but for now we are concentrating on Categories I and II. WPA criteria and CWAP Category definitions were used to nominate watersheds and are described in Attachment 1. Attachment 2 describes the WPA and Alaska's six regional hydrologic units. Attachment 3 includes the list of draft nominations for Category I and Category II watersheds for your review and comment. Attachment 4 is a summary explanation of why the watershed was nominated and the name of the hydrologic region in which it is located.

The public comment period for the nominated watersheds is August 3 through September 1, 1998.

Background Information

The Clinton administration released the CWAP in February 1998. The CWAP supplements the Clean Water Act to protect and restore the Nation's rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, and coastal waters. Each state is to prioritize its watersheds by October 1, 1998. This is a dynamic process that has similar objectives to the WPA effort.

ADEC and NRCS have started the watershed nomination process, which includes the following elements:

- Use watershed partnership efforts already underway that are summarized in the October 1997 WPA brochure (Attachment 2). Use WPA criteria for nominating watersheds in each of Alaska's six hydrologic regions.
- Nominate watersheds for Category I (watersheds in need of restoration) and Category II (watersheds in need of protection to maintain water quality and other resource goals). A ten year implementation schedule will be developed for Category I watersheds and funding will be targeted during initial implementation.

A maximum of three Category II watersheds will be selected from each of Alaska's six hydrologic regions. Of those Category II watersheds, four will be identified as high priority.

- Use Alaska's 1998 Section 303(d) list as a basis for determining Category I watersheds. Alaska's Section 303(d) list identifies "water quality limited" waterbodies that have had

shows the watershed does not meet clean water goals such as impaired drinking water sources, has degraded aquatic habitat and has declines in the populations of rare aquatic species." If you believe the proposed listed watershed should be removed from Category I, please provide specific information to justify removal.

Category II watersheds (watersheds needing action to sustain water quality): Comments must reference or include **specific** information to justify why the watershed, or an area in the watershed, needs action to sustain water quality or other natural resources to prevent the watershed from degrading to a Category I situation. If you believe the nominated watershed should be removed from Category II, please provide specific information to justify removal.

After the public comment period (following September 1, 1998)

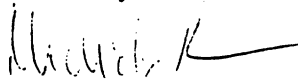
ADEC and NRCS will conduct an inter-agency working group meeting on September 17, 1998 to review the public comments and develop the draft final Category I and II watershed list. This group is composed of representatives as mentioned previously.

The draft final Category I and II list and supporting information will be reviewed by ADEC and a final list and action plan will be submitted to NRCS National Headquarters, Washington D.C. by September 30, 1998. **All watersheds that are on the final Category I and Category II lists will have sufficient information – as determined by ADEC - to provide adequate rationale for the listing decision.**

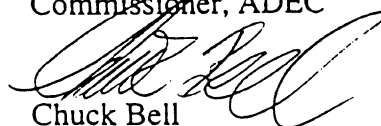
The final report will be mailed to all respondents by October 16, 1998. It is anticipated that the report will become important in continuing the regional watershed restoration and protection effort in Alaska - an important objective of the Watershed Partnerships in Alaska.

Thank you for your active participation in watershed restoration and protection efforts in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Michele Brown
Commissioner, ADEC



Chuck Bell
State Conservationist, NRCS

- Attachments:
1. Category I-IV definitions
 2. The October 1997 Watershed Partnerships in Alaska brochure.
 3. Category I and Category II Watershed Lists
 4. Summary Information for Nominated Watersheds **NOT** on the Section 303(d) List

Attachment 1

Watershed Category Definitions

Category I – Watersheds in Need of Restoration. These watersheds do not now meet, or face imminent threat of not meeting, clean water and other natural resource goals. Selection factors include:

- ◆ Nonattainment of national clean water goals (including exceedances of state or tribal water quality standards, or impaired drinking water sources, etc.);
- ◆ Nonattainment of natural resource goals related to aquatic systems, including goals related to habitat, ecosystem health, and living resources;
- ◆ Other appropriate measures and indicators of degraded aquatic system conditions (e.g. wetland condition and current historical loss rates, percent impervious surface, and other measures of aquatic habitat); and
- ◆ Decline in the condition of living and natural resources that are part of the aquatic system in the watershed (e.g., decline in the populations of rare and endangered aquatic species, decline in healthy populations of fish and shellfish, etc.)

Category II – Watersheds Meeting Goals, Including Those Needing Action to Sustain Water Quality. These watersheds meet clean water and other natural resource goals and standards and support healthy aquatic systems. All such watersheds need the continuing implementation of core clean water and natural resource programs to maintain water quality and conserve natural resources. Selection factors include:

- ◆ Meeting national clean water goals (including state or tribal water quality standards, drinking water protection objectives, etc.);
- ◆ Meeting natural resource goals, including goals related to aquatic habitat, ecosystem health, living resources; and
- ◆ Other measures and indicators of aquatic system conditions, including the condition of living and natural resources.

Category III – Watersheds with Pristine/Sensitive Aquatic System Conditions on Lands Administered by Federal, State, or Tribal Governments. State/tribes work cooperatively with federal land managers to identify watersheds with exceptionally pristine water quality, other sensitive aquatic system conditions, and drinking water sources that are located on lands administered by federal, state or tribal governments. These areas include designated and potential candidate Wilderness Areas, Outstanding Natural Resource Waters, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Category IV – Watersheds With Insufficient Data to Make an Assessment. These watersheds lack significant information, critical data elements, or the data density needed to make a reasonable assessment at this time.

Attachment 3 - CATEGORY I WATERSHEDS

* = On Alaska's 1998 Section 303(d) List

CPA = Conservation Priority Area

ARCTIC - HIGH None Identified	INTERIOR - HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chena River Hogatz River Yukon River 	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cold Bay * Dutch Harbor * Eskimo Creek * King Cove * King Salmon Creek King Salmon River * Popof Strait Pribilof Islands McCally Creek * Red Fox Creek Sweeper Creek 	NORTHWEST - HIGH Bering Sea Wulik River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Red Dog Creek * Ikalukarok Creek 	SOUTHCENTRAL-KODIAK - HIGH Anderson Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Eagle River Flats Eyak Lake Gulkana River Kenai River & Tributaries Kodiak Urban Lakes Little Susitna River Lower Susitna Drainage Russian River & Tributaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ship Creek Potter Marsh Watershed	SOUTHEAST - HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hamilton Bay * Jordan Creek Mendenhall Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Nakwasina River * Pederson Hill Creek * Silver Bay * Thorne Bay * Ward Cove
ARCTIC - MEDIUM None Identified	INTERIOR - MEDIUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Caribou Creek * Chena Slough * Crooked Creek Drainage * Goldstream Creek Interior Lowlands - Fairbanks CPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Noyes Slough * Slate Creek 	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - MEDIUM None Identified	NORTHWEST - MEDIUM Nome Creek	SOUTHCENTRAL - MEDIUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Chester Creek * Hood/Spenard Lake * Little Rabbit Creek * Little Survival Creek Point MacKenzie CPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Red Lake/Anton Rd Ponds * University Lake * Westchester Lagoon Resurrection Creek	SOUTHEAST - MEDIUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cube Cove * Duck Creek * Granite Creek * Point McCartney * Rowan Bay * Schulze Cove * Twelvemile Arm * Wrinklneck Creek * Swan Lake
ARCTIC - LOW None Identified	INTERIOR - LOW Birch Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cabin Creek * Harding Lake 	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Illiuliuk Bay/Harbor * Udagak Bay 	NORTHWEST - LOW Chukchi Sea Julian Creek Nome River Drainage Snake River	SOUTHCENTRAL/KODIAK - LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Campbell Creek * Campbell Lake * Cheney Lake * Fish Creek * Furrow Creek * Lake Lucille * Little Campbell Creek 	SOUTHEAST - LOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Klag Bay * Skagway Harbor

Attachment 4
CATEGORY I NOMINATIONS

Information For Nominated Watersheds NOT On The Section 303(d) List

ARCTIC

No information presented

NORTHWEST

Category I - High

BERING SEA

- Threatened and endangered species issues; ecosystem in trouble

WULIK RIVER

- Drinking water; Red Dog Mine in Upper Watershed (Red Dog Creek/Ikalukarok Creek)

Category I - Medium

NOME CREEK

- Degraded riparian habitat from mining; high recreational use.

Category I - Low

CHUKCHI SEA

- Same as Bering Sea

JULIAN CREEK

- Old mining; documentation exists.

NOME RIVER DRAINAGE

- As a result of mining and the road systems having a negative impact on the river; heavy erosion on the constructed gravel berm and high recreational activity.

SNAKE RIVER

- Contaminated sediment; riparian habitat; tailings piles from old mining activity.

INTERIOR

Category I - High

HOGATZA RIVER

- Mining in the tributaries; chum/coho run impaired 20% to the Yukon River

YUKON RIVER

- Including other villages at Galena. The headwaters creosote plant; military sites along the river; landfills without impervious liners; raw sewage pumped in at Dawson City; reduced chum runs; old mining; subsistence; fish path contamination; down river of the Galena military base has 250,000 toxic drums spread out across the tundra as a result of a flood; public health issues; people depend on the river for transportation. The Air Force is currently doing a study of underground hydrocarbons at Galena.

Category I - Medium

- Naknek/Dillingham area; heavy recreation.

PRIBILOF ISLANDS

- Decline in fur seal rookeries as well as fish and bird counts; seafood and waste discharge issues; oil spills; untreated waste; current federal cleanups in place.

MCCALLY CREEK near the village of Red Devil

- Mercury mine effluent flows into the Kuskokwim River.

SWEEPER CREEK

- Located on Adak. Historic military contamination from the 1940's.

SOUTHEAST

Category I - High

MENDENHALL VALLEY

High degree of urbanization; loss of riparian habitat and wetlands

SOUTHEAST

- Indian River (located near Sitka - urbanization)
- Skagway River (high recreation use)
- Taiya River (near Haines - high recreation use)
- Chilkat River (near Haines; potential mining, forestry, and recreation)
- Taku River (near Juneau; mining and recreational cabin development)
- Stikine River (near Wrangell; high recreational use)
- Harris River (Prince of Wales Island; forestry and increasing recreation use)

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air and Water Quality
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 105
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795

Director's Office: (907) 465-5300
Fax: (907) 465-5274
TTY: (907) 465-5010

September 14, 1998

Dear Working Group Members:

Solicitation of public comments regarding the proposed list of Alaska's watershed nominations for the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) was conducted from August 3 through September 1, 1998. Requests for comment were sent to numerous Alaska newspapers and approximately 730 individuals, businesses, interest groups, Tribes, villages, local, state and federal agencies.

DEC and NRCS have summarized all applicable watershed nomination comments and grouped them according to the six Regional Hydrologic Units identified by the Watershed Partnerships in Alaska. The six Regions are Kuskokwim/Aleutian, Southcentral/Kodiak, Arctic, Northwest, Interior and Southeast.

The summation spreadsheets for each Regional Hydrologic Unit include:

- Watershed/waterbody as noted by the comment
- Person presenting the comment
- Affiliation of the person presenting the comment
- Suggested CWAP Category for the watershed/waterbody as per comment
- Eight-digit hydrologic unit number as required by CWAP
- The six nomination criteria derived from the "Watershed Partnerships in Alaska" and supporting summary information provided through comment.
- Recommended CWAP Category as suggested by DEC and NRCS based on the comment, and, other information available to DEC and NRCS not necessarily noted in the comment.

The summation (see enclosed spreadsheets) will be used to complete a final CWAP nomination list as the product of the September 17 meeting (see attached tentative agenda). That product will include two lists:

- Category I list that identifies watersheds in need of restoration in each of the six hydrologic regions. The list will include a prioritization of watersheds using a high, medium and low designation.
- Category II list that identifies three high priority watersheds in need of protection for each of the regions. Of the possible 18 watersheds identified for Alaska, four will be designated as requiring immediate attention.

Because of limited time and magnitude of effort, it is our intention to break into three smaller groups at the September 17th meeting with each group addressing the comments of two regional hydrologic units.

CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN
Inter-Agency Working Group - Alaska Watershed Nomination Meeting
9:30 AM - September 17, 1998
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Kaloa Building - Conference Room 114
1689 - C Street
Anchorage, Alaska

TENTATIVE AGENDA

9:30 - 9:45	Introductions and Purpose	NRCS
9:45 - 10:15	Public Comment Process	DEC - NRCS
10:15 - 10:30	Process to Finalize Regional Watershed Nominations	NRCS
10:30 - 11:45	Group Breakout	DEC - NRCS
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 - 1:30	Continue Group Breakout	DEC - NRCS
1:30 - 2:30	Group Presentation of Nominations	Groups
2:30 - 2:45	Break	
2:45 - 4:15	Group Presentation of Nominations	Groups
4:15 - 4:45	Final Nomination List	DEC
4:45 - 5:00	Future Action	DEC

SouthEast Watershed Comments

					Unified Watershed Criteria						Recommendation (L, M, H)		
Watershed / Waterbody	Person	Affiliation	Cat Request	Hydro Unit	Local Interest	Resource Value	Ongoing Activity	Public Health Environmental Risk	Multiple Ownership	Cost Benefit	Cat 1	Cat 2	OFF
Petersen Creek	D. Dobyns	Douglas Indian Association	2	19010301			research	development	yes			M	
Lemon Creek	D. Dobyns	Douglas Indian Association	1	19010301			TMDL				L		
Taku River	D. Dobyns	Douglas Indian Association	1	19010301			research	heavy metals				H	
Vanderbilt Creek	D. Dobyns	Douglas Indian Association	1	19010301			TMDL				L		
	T. Brock	wetlands scientist	1			fish wetlands		development			L		
Mendenhall Watershed	J. Caplan	USFS	1	19010301							H		
	J. Caulfield	Mendenhall Watershed Part.	1	19010301	yes		research				H		
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	1								H		
Duck Creek	J. Caulfield	Mendenhall Watershed Part.	1	19010301			research				H *		
	J. Dahlberg	NMFS ABL	1								H		
Auke Lake	J. Caulfield	Mendenhall Watershed Part.	1	19010301		fish		development			H		
Chilkat River	R. Goldberg	Lynn Canal Conservation	2	19010303		fish, culture		timber harvest				H	
	C. Rowe	T & H Central Council	1			fish-subsistence		development				H	
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	2									H	
	D. Argetsinger	Klukwan Inc.	OFF									H	
	D. Hess	River Adventures	OFF									H	
Chilkoot River	K. Menke		2	19010303	yes	fish	yes	development	yes			H	
	R. Goldberg	Lynn Canal Conservation	2			cultural, fish		timber harvest				H	
	B. Wilde	Wilde Images, ID	2			cultural, fish		development				H	
	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2			fish		development				H	
	lots more letters		2										
Ferebee River	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2	19010303	low	fish-aesthetics		timber harvest	yes			M	
Thorne Bay	G. Tierney	City of Thorne Bay	OFF	19010103							H *		
	J. Caplan	USFS	OFF								H *		
	J. Maloy	KPC	OFF				yes				H *		
	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	1			fish	yes	development			H *		
Ward Cove	J. Maloy	KPC	OFF	19010102							H *		
	J. Caplan	USFS	OFF								H *		
Tongass Narrows	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	1	19010102								M	
	E. Hummel	Tongass Conservation Society	2			water quality	yes	pollution					
Silver Bay / ALP site	J. Clark	R, M, & Eastaugh	OFF	19010203			yes				H *		
	J. Caplan	USFS	OFF								H *		
	B. McNitt	Sitka Conservation	1					effluent discharge			H *		
	G. Paxton	C&B of Sitka	OFF								H *		
	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	1					development			H *		
Granite Creek	G. Paxton	C&B of Sitka	OFF	19010203							H *		
Swan Lake / Wrinklneck Ck	G. Paxton	C&B of Sitka	OFF	19010203							H *		

SouthEast Watershed Comments

Watershed / Waterbody	Person	Affiliation	Cat Request	Hydro Unit	Local Interest	Resource Value	Ongoing Activity	Unified Watershed Criteria			Recommendation (L, M, H)		
								Public Health Environmental Risk	Multiple Ownership	Cost Benefit	Cat 1	Cat 2	OFF
Cube Cove	G. McNaughton	Koncor	OFF	19010204							H *		
Pelican Creek	T. Whitmarsh	Pelican Seafoods	3	19010203		human use-wilderness		development				H	
Saltery River	J. McBeen	City of Tenakee Springs	2	19010203	yes	fish-tourism		development				H	
	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2									H	
Situk River	M. Mitchell	USFS	2	19010401	yes	fish-tourism	yes	unplanned rec				H	
	C. Rowe	T & H Central Council	1		yes		yes	development				H	
Kassan Bay	C. Rowe	T & H Central Council	1	19010103		traditional use		historic mines				H	
Berners Bay	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2	19010301	yes	fish-recreation	yes	development				H	
	R. Goldberg	Lynn Canal Conservation	2	19010301	yes	fish-recreation	yes	development				H	
E. Kuiu Island	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2	19010202		wildlife and fish habitat		proposed timber harvest				M	
Port Houghton/Sandborn Canal	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2	19010201		wildlife and fish habitat		proposed timber harvest				M	
Ushk Bay/Deep Bay/Poison Cove	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2	19010203		wildlife and fish habitat		proposed timber harvest				M	
Broad Finger/Broad Creek	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2	19010203		wildlife and fish habitat		proposed timber harvest				M	
Port Stewart/Cleveland Penn.	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2	19010101		wildlife and fish habitat		proposed timber harvest				M	
Johnson Lake & Creek	B. Lindekugel	SEACC	2			wildlife and fish habitat		proposed timber harvest				M	
303(d) Listed waters only	R. Harris	Sealaska	1	190++++									
All catalogued fish streams	J. Kowalski	ADF&G Habitat	2	190++++									OFF
All forestry activities	J. Phelps	Ak Forest Assoc.	OFF	190++++									

SouthCentral Watershed Comments

					Unified Watershed Criteria						Recommendation (L, M, H)		
Watershed / Waterbody	Person	Affiliation	Cat Request	Hydro Unit	Local Interest	Resource Value	Ongoing Activity	Public Health Environmental Risk	Multiple Ownership	Cost Benefit	Cat 1	Cat 2	OFF
	M. Ford	AK Cooperative Ext.	1	19020401					Yes		H		
Gulkana River	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	1					WQ problems				H	
	D. Tol	BLM	1H	19020102		Fisheries,	Yes	Recreational				H	
Lower Susitna River	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	NOT 1	19020505								M	
	M. Martin	Mat-Su Borough Planning Dept	2									M	
Little Susitna River	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	NOT 1	19020505								H	
Russian River	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	2	19020302		Recreation		Only list lower section as Category II			H		
McCarthy Creek	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	2	19020103				NPS land no mining remove from list					OFF
Virgin Creek	M. Ford	AK Cooperative Ext.	2	19020401				Development planned				H	
Whittier Coastal Zone	J. Durnil	Whittier CZM Coord.	1	19020202									OFF
Cook Inlet	G. Kellogg	EPA	1	190++++	Yes	multiple values	Yes		Yes				OFF
Port Valdez	J. Devens	PWS RCAC	2	19020201		Fisheries		Industrial & community development				M	
PWS uplands timber harvest	R. Rogers	Chugach Ak Corp.	2					Object to listing of timber harvest areas					OFF
	J. Caplan	USFS	2					Object to listing of timber harvest areas					OFF
303(d) Listed waters only	K. Freeman	RDC	1	190++++				Not appropriate, no more watersheds			H*		
303(d) Listed waters only	B. Crewdson	Munic. of Anchorage	1	190++++				Not appropriate, no more watersheds			H*		
303(d) Listed waters only	C. Klein	Anchorage Intl' Airport	1	190++++				Not appropriate, no more watersheds			H*		
303(d) Listed waters only	R. Harris	Sealaska	1	190++++				Not appropriate, no more watersheds			H*		

Kuskokwim/Aleutians Watershed Comments

Watershed / Waterbody	Person	Affiliation	Cat Request	Hydro Unit	Local Interest	Unified Watershed Criteria					Recommendation (L, M, H)		
						Resource Value	Ongoing Activity	Public Health Environmental Risk	Multiple Ownership	Cost Benefit	Cat 1	Cat 2	OFF
Red Devil Creek	B. Vera	Alaska Inter-Tribal Council	1	19030501				High asbestos, arsenic, pH, PCB & antimony					OFF
Bering Sea	G. Kellogg	EPA	1	190+++++		unique fish & wildlife							OFF
	C MacCay	Cominco Alaska	OUT										OFF
	K Freeman	RDCA	OUT										OFF
	S. Borell	AK Miner's Assn.	OUT										OFF
	D. Allen	USFWS	OUT										OFF
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	OUT										OFF
	P. Jackson	Nature Conservancy	OUT										OFF
Nushagak River	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	2	19030303								H	
Wood River	J. Easton	Bristol Bay CRSA	2	19030304								M	
King Salmon R.	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	OUT	19030203									OFF
	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	1	19030203									OFF
Salmon River	D. Allen	USFWS	1					Placer & dredging activity, block fish migration			M		
Moraine Creek	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2	19030203									OFF
Alagnak River	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2	19030206									OFF
Upper Mulchatna River	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2	19030302									OFF
Chilikadrotna River	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2										OFF
Lake Iliamna	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2	19030206									OFF
Lake Clark	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2	19030205									OFF
Becharof Lake	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2	19030203									OFF
Ugashik Lake	S. Bergey	Lake and Penin. Boro	2	19030202									OFF
Sweeper Creek/Bay	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	1	19030204							M		
	D. Allen	USFWS	1	19030204				PCB's in shellfish			M		
Johnson River	R. Nick	City of Nunspichuk	1	19030502		Fisheries, drinking		Fish migration blockage by beavers					OFF
Aleutians / Kuskokwim	K. Kolehmainen	Aleutians West CRSA	1	1903++++									OFF
303(d) Listed waters only	R. Harris	Sealaska	1	190+++++									
All catalogued fish streams	J. Kowalski	ADF&G Habitat	2	190+++++									OFF

Interior Watershed Comments

Watershed / Waterbody	Person	Affiliation	Cat Request	Hydro Unit	Local Interest	Unified Watershed Criteria					Recommendation (L, M, H)		
						Resource Value	Ongoing Activity	Public Health Environmental Risk	Multiple Ownership	Cost Benefit	Cat 1	Cat 2	OFF
Bering Sea	G. Kellogg	EPA	1	190+++++									OFF
	C MacCay	Cominco Alaska	Out										OFF
	K Freeman	RDC	Out										OFF
	S. Borell	Ak Miners Association	Out										OFF
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	Out										OFF
Yukon River	K Freeman	RDC	Out	19040+++								H	
	S. Borell	Ak Miners Association	Out									H	
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	Out									H	
	D. Allen	USFWS	Out					Segment river				H	
	C MacCay	Cominco Alaska	Out					Segment river				H	
	C. Pilot	Loudon Tribal Council	2									H	
Koyukuk River	C. Pilot	Loudon Tribal Council	1	19040608	Yes	Fisheries wildlife, subsistence	Yes	Mercury contamination			H		
Nowitna River	C. Pilot	Loudon Tribal Council	1	19040702	Yes	Fisheries wildlife, subsistence	Yes	Mercury contamination			H		
Innoko NWR northern unit	C. Pilot	Loudon Tribal Council	1	19040803	Yes	Fisheries wildlife, subsistence	Yes	Mercury contamination			H		
Hogatza River	S. Borell	Ak Miners Association	Out	19040608				No fisheries data				M	
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	Out					no WQ violations				M	
	T. Allen	BLM	2			Fisheries & subsistence		Mining				M	
Birch Creek	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	Out					no WQ violations					
	T. Allen	BLM	1			Habitat		past mining			M		
Nome Creek	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	Out					no WQ violations			M		
	T. Allen	BLM	1			Fisheries		past mining and recreation			M		
Slate Creek	T. Allen	BLM	2			Fisheries-minimal		Mining			M*		
Jim River/Prospect Creek	T. Allen	BLM	2			BLM-ACEC, fisheries		Mining & highway				L	
Chatanika River	S. Ward	Northern Environmental Center	1	19040509				mining and recreation				M	

NorthWest Watershed Comments

					Unified Watershed Criteria						Recommendation (L, M, H)		
Watershed / Waterbody	Person	Affiliation	Cat Request	Hydro Unit	Local Interest	Resource Value	Ongoing Activity	Public Health Environmental Risk	Multiple Ownership	Cost Benefit	Cat 1	Cat 2	OFF
Kobuk River	S. Weisner	Shungnak	2	19050303		Drinking						H	
	J. Gothe	Maniilaq Association	2	19050303		Various						H	
Wulik River	J. Gothe	Maniilaq Association	1	19050404		Drinking Recreation & Aquatics		Heavy Metals				H	
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	OUT	19050404		Drinking						H	
Wulik River Red Dog Ikalukarok Creek	V. Karmun	NW Arctic Borough	OUT	19050404								H	
	K. Freeman	RDCA	OUT	19050404								H	
	C MacCay	Cominco Alaska	OUT	19050404		Drinking						H	
Chukchi Sea	G. Kellogg	EPA	1	19050+++									OFF
	C MacCay	Cominco Alaska	OUT										OFF
	K Freeman	RDCA	OUT										OFF
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	OUT										OFF
Bering Sea	G. Kellogg	EPA	1	190+++++									OFF
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	OUT										
Noatak River	J. Gothe, et al.	Maniilaq Association	2		/	Subsistence, recreation		Future Development				M	
Nome River	D. Tol	BLM	1L			Fisheries		Road Construction			L		
	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	OUT								L		
Solomon River	D. Tol	BLM	1L			Fisheries		Mining, Road Construction			L		
Julian Creek	G. Prokosch	DNR Mining & Water	OUT					No degradation identified					OFF
303(d) Listed waters only	R. Harris	Sealaska	1	190+++++									
All catalogued fish streams	J. Kowalski	ADF&G Habitat	2	190+++++									
All forestry activities	J. Phelps	Ak Forest Assoc.	OUT	190+++++									

DRAFT - CATEGORY I WATERSHEDS
*** = On Alaska's 1998 Section 303(d) List**
CPA = Conservation Priority Area

ARCTIC - HIGH None Identified	INTERIOR - HIGH * Chena River Koyukuk River Nowitna River Innoko NWR	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - HIGH * Cold Bay * Dutch Harbor * Eskimo Creek * King Cove * King Salmon Creek McCally Creek * Popof Strait * Red Fox Creek	NORTHWEST - HIGH None Identified	SOUTHCENTRAL-KODIAK - HIGH Cottonwood Creek * Eagle River Flats Eyak Lake Gulkana River Kenai River & Tributaries Kodiak Urban Lakes Wasilla Lake Russian River & Tributaries * Ship Creek Big Lake Nancy Lake * Campbell Creek * Chester Creek Potter Marsh Watershed * Little Rabbit Creek * Little Survival Creek	SOUTHEAST - HIGH * Hamilton Bay * Nakwasina River & Sound * Silver Bay * Thorne Bay * Ward Cove * Swan Lake * Granite Creek Indian River (Tenakee) Katlian River Stargavan Creek Mendenhall Valley Watershed * Duck Creek * Pederson Hill Creek * Jordan Creek * Auke Lake
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DRAFT - CATEGORY I WATERSHEDS
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ARCTIC - MEDIUM None Identified	INTERIOR - MEDIUM * Caribou Creek * Chena Slough * Crooked Creek Drainage * Goldstream Creek Interior Lowlands - Fairbanks CPA * Noyes Slough * Slate Creek Birch Creek Nome Creek	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - MEDIUM Sweeper Creek/Bay Salmon River	NORTHWEST - MEDIUM Nome Creek	SOUTHCENTRAL - MEDIUM Resurrection Creek * Hgod/Spenard Lake Point MacKenzie CPA * Red Lake/Anton Rd Ponds * University Lake * Westchester Lagoon	SOUTHEAST - MEDIUM * Cube Cove South Katlian River Adams Creek * Point McCartney * Rowan Bay * Schulze Cove * Twelvemile Arm * Wrinklneck Creek Duffield Creek Fish Creek Iris Creek Noxon Creek Rodman Creek Shelikof Creek Sitkoh Creek Sitkoh River Red Bay N. Whitewater Bay Creek
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DRAFT - CATEGORY I WATERSHEDS
*** = On Alaska's 1998 Section 303(d) List**
CPA = Conservation Priority Area

ARCTIC - LOW None Identified	INTERIOR - LOW * Cabin Creek * Harding Lake	KUSKOKWIM-ALEUTIANS - LOW * Illiuliuk Bay/Harbor * Udagak Bay	NORTHWEST - LOW Nome River Drainage Salmon River Snake River Solomon River	SOUTHCENTRAL/KODIAK - LOW Anderson Creek * Campbell Lake * Cheney Lake * Fish Creek * Furrow Creek * Lake Lucille * Little Campbell Creek Fourth of July Creek Salmon Creek	SOUTHEAST - LOW * Klag Bay * Skagway Harbor Lemon Creek Vanderbilt Creek
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